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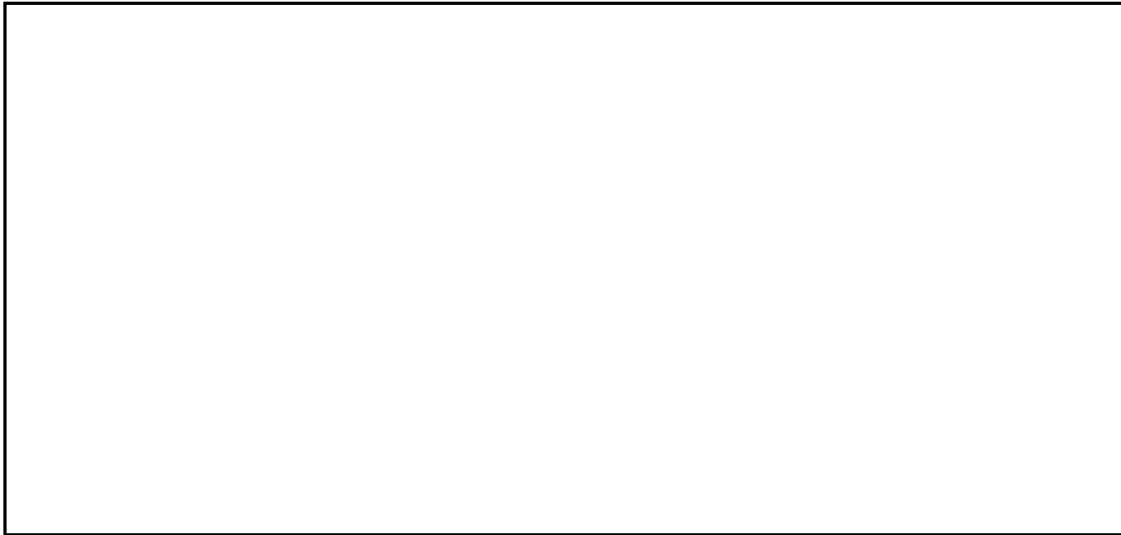
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[REDACTED]
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Ghana: The removal yesterday of General Joseph Ankrah as head of the military government will reduce public confidence in the regime and may delay the transfer of power to a civilian government.

The decision to oust Ankrah as chairman of the ruling National Liberation Council came after his colleagues discovered he had solicited large sums of money for political purposes. [redacted]

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Ankrah's replacement, Brigadier Akwasi A. Afrifa, puts a dubious element at the head of the council, although Ghana's pro-Western orientation will not be affected. Young and mercurial, Afrifa has previously caused tensions within the council by impetuous and unpredictable actions. Although other council members, including powerful Vice Chairman John Harlley, agreed to Afrifa's appointment, they may have some difficulty keeping tight reins on him.

The break in the council's cohesion could adversely affect progress toward a return to civilian rule. The council has issued a public statement asserting that the September target date for national elections still stands, but there had been earlier indications that the deadline might not be met. The removal of the politically ambitious Ankrah, who had urged an early return to civilian government, could slow the process even further.

The regime, fearing adverse public reaction and possibly repercussions within the armed forces, has already taken steps to discredit Ankrah. It has publicly detailed the allegations against him and claims its move is in accord with its pledge "to stamp out corruption" after the 1966 coup. Ankrah's fellow Ga tribesmen are nevertheless likely to claim that his ouster was tribally and politically motivated. [redacted]

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NOTES

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Congo (Kinshasa): Continued personal extravagance by President Mobutu will hamper efforts to stabilize the Congo's economy. In the first three months of the year, Mobutu has spent \$28 million from the presidential slush fund--\$22 million more than the amount budgeted for that period. This excess represents over 80 percent of the Congo's current budget deficit; the budget was supposed to be balanced during 1969. Mobutu has conscientiously followed other monetary reform guidelines, and he probably uses most of his presidential allowance to supplement army salaries and to build and maintain his own political power base.

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